

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 2, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2003
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1241

Introduced by Assembly Member Parra
(~~Coauthor: Assembly Member Maze~~)
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Maze)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Calderon, Cogdill, McCarthy,
and Samuelian)

February 21, 2003

An act to add and repeal Section 128401 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health professions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1241, as amended, Parra. Nursing education scholarships.

Existing law establishes the Registered Nurse Education Fund, consisting of specified fees, and administered by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, for purposes of funding the Registered Nurse Education Program within the foundation, which provides scholarships and loans to nursing students meeting specified criteria.

This bill would require the office, until January 1, 2009, *to establish, by regulation, the statewide Associate Degree Nursing (A.D.N.) Scholarship Pilot Program* and to allocate a portion of the funds contained in the Registered Nurse Education Fund for purposes of providing scholarships to *associate degree nursing students*—~~accepted~~

~~to, or enrolled in, associate degree nursing programs at community colleges in California, and who in counties determined to have the most need based on designated criteria. Scholarship recipients would, pursuant to these provisions, be required to meet other specified requirements. It would also require that the scholarships be targeted to students in the central valley Counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) There is a severe shortage of registered nurses in California.
4 Currently, California ranks 49th out of the 50 states in the number
5 of registered nurses per 100,000 persons. The central valley in the
6 state suffers from the least number of nurses per capita.

7 (2) The Health Professions Education Foundation is a
8 nonprofit public benefit corporation established to assist the
9 Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development with the
10 provision of scholarships and loan repayment grants to health
11 professional students throughout California who are willing to
12 practice in medically underserved areas. The foundation
13 accomplishes its mission by making recommendations to the
14 Director of Statewide Health Planning and Development with
15 respect to the award of scholarships and loan repayment grants to
16 health professional students from economically disadvantaged
17 backgrounds and demographically underrepresented groups who
18 are committed to practicing in underserved areas.

19 (3) To assist in addressing the severe nurse shortage in the
20 central valley, a central valley scholarship program is necessary.

21 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to
22 establish a scholarship program for nursing students.

23 SEC. 2. Section 128401 is added to the Health and Safety
24 Code, to read:

25 128401. (a) The Office of Statewide Health Planning and
26 Development shall allocate a portion of the funds contained in the
27 Registered Nurse Education Fund for purposes of providing
28 scholarships to nursing students accepted to, or enrolled in,

~~associate degree nursing programs at community colleges in California. A recipient shall be required to complete, at a minimum, an associate degree in nursing and either work in a medically underserved area in California upon obtaining his or her degree or obtain a license from the Board of Registered Nursing. Scholarships shall be targeted to students in the central valley Counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare.~~

~~(b) Development shall adopt regulations establishing the statewide Associate Degree Nursing (A.D.N.) Scholarship Pilot Program.~~

~~(b) Scholarships under the pilot program shall be available only to students in counties determined to have the most need. Need in a county shall be established based on consideration of all the following factors:~~

~~(1) Counties with a registered nurse to population ratio equal or less than 500 registered nurses per 100,000 individuals.~~

~~(2) County unemployment rate.~~

~~(3) County level of poverty.~~

~~(c) A scholarship recipient shall be required to complete, at a minimum, an associate degree in nursing and work in a medically underserved area in California upon obtaining his or her license from the Board of Registered Nursing.~~

~~(d) The pilot program shall be funded from the Registered Nurse Education Fund established pursuant to Section 128400 and administered by the Health Professions Education Foundation within the office. The Health Professions Education Foundation shall allocate a portion of the moneys in the fund for the pilot program established pursuant to this section, in addition to moneys otherwise allocated pursuant to this article for scholarships and loans for associate degree nurse students.~~

~~(e) No additional staff or General Fund operating costs shall be expended for the pilot program.~~

~~(f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2009, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2009, deletes or extends that date.~~